

Scientists Trying To Think Like Birds

By JOHN BARNETT
United Press International
Menlo Park, Calif. — (UPI) — It has been said that you cannot master a language until you can think in it — and this helps explain why scientists at Stanford Research Institute are trying to think like birds.

The object is not to develop bird-brained scientists, but to make co-existence of birds and man a little easier for both.

Certain types of birds — particularly starlings, gulls and pheasants — just cannot seem to get along with mankind and the results are often disastrous for both, according to the scientists.

Among the difficulties are that birds are apt to show up at the wrong place at the wrong time, that they are apt to overpopulate a given area and that they sometimes are

just plain indiscreet. In hopes of solving some of the problems, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the United States Department of the Interior has commissioned the Institute to see what it can do.

Vincent Salmon, manager of the Institute's sonic section, believes the answer may lie in sound effects — talking to the birds in their own language.

"If we can somehow learn to think like birds," he said, "we should be able to solve these problems to everyone's satisfaction."

The worst troublemaker is probably the starling.

These abundant little birds, besides being messy when they gather in downtown tree-tops, are known for their devastating attacks on farm crops and for their habit of clustering at airports, getting

themselves sucked into jet engines during takeoff. The result is a serious flying hazard for birds and men alike. Starlings tend to cluster when alarmed, and Salmon hopes that some form of acoustical herding based on this behavior will solve the problem.

Herring gulls cause hundreds of thousands of dollars' damage annually by depositing highly corrosive droppings on boats and shore facilities. Scientists at the institute are looking for an economical

sonic system that would encourage them to roost elsewhere.

The problem with pheasants is unintentional suicide far more dangerous to the pheasant than to man.

Young pheasants instinctively lie still in tall grass when danger approaches — even when it is a farmer's cultivating or mowing equipment.

Scientists hope to develop a sound that will save these favorite game birds from their own deadly instincts.



JOINT EFFORT—In true tradition of performers, Salinas, Calif. High school band members Robert Buck, 15, left, and Phil O'Dell, 17, carry on in the saxophone section of the band, regardless of the fact they both broke their arms on the same day. Buck broke his left arm while pole vaulting and O'Dell broke his right arm playing baseball. Here they hold up their section in the band by using their good arms. (UPI)

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Unander Attacks Record of Morse

Portland — (UPI) — Oregon Republican Senatorial nominee Sig Unander of Portland said here Wednesday that Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) has a voting record which was 93 per cent for waste and extravagance.

Unander, who defeated Rep. Edwin Durno (R-Ore.) last week end to secure the GOP nomination to face Morse in the general election in November, spoke at a luncheon of the Oregon Republican Club.

He said that Morse's voting record only was seven per cent for sound money and added that Sen. Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.) gained nearly seven times as much defense work for his state as Morse did for Oregon.

Oregon Doctors Form Committee

Portland — (UPI) — Oregon doctors are forming a political group known as Oregon Medical Political Action committee, a spokesman said Wednesday.

Dr. Max Parrott, Portland, said OMPAC was affiliated with the American Medical Political Action committee and was the doctors' counterpart to labor's Committee on Political Education (COPE).

Dr. Parrott, who supported Rep. Edwin R. Durno, a physician, for the U. S. Senate nomination, said he would switch to support of Sig Unander, who defeated Durno.

"We are not affiliated with any political party, but we are totally hooked to the conservative view of individual and local responsibility," he said.

Dignitaries Attend Funeral for Hintz

Salem — (UPI) — Gov. Mark Hatfield and three ex-governors headed a slate of dignitaries Wednesday at formal military rites for Oregon Adjutant General Alfred E. Hintz, who died Saturday.

The ceremonies were in the armory auditorium. The former governors attending were Robert D. Holmes, Elmo Smith and Charles A. Sprague. Burial was at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland.

Medford Group's Petition Denied

Salem — (UPI) — The Oregon Agriculture Department late Wednesday denied a petition that would have taken Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and perhaps Lake counties out of state milk market area 1A. The petition was filed by Coordinated Milk Sales, Inc., Medford. The group was joined by the Klamath grade milk producers association. A hearing was held in Medford April 24.

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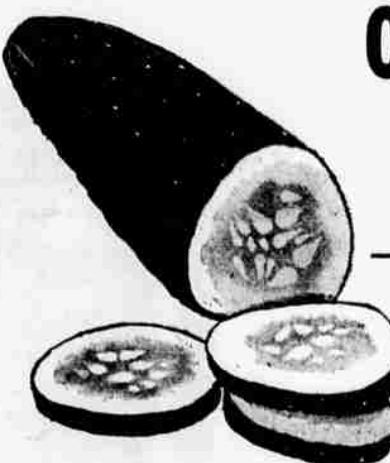
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